

DALHOUSIE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

755 Somerset Street West, Ottawa, Ontario, K1R 6R1

July 9, 2024

Dear Councillor King:

Re: DCA Support for Designation of the Dominican Properties

The Dalhousie Community Association supports the recommendations of the Heritage Planning Branch to issue notices of Intention to Designate 85 Primrose Avenue East, 755 Somerset Street West, and 90 Primrose Avenue East/96 Empress Avenue, under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

We have read the Cultural Heritage Evaluation Reports for the Dominican properties and agree with their conclusions and the evaluations using Ontario Regulation 09/06. The only qualification we would add is that from a community perspective each of these properties have value as local landmarks, in addition to the St. Jean Baptiste Church belltower. They stand out in the views to and from this area.

The DCA is very supportive of the designation of these properties as a group. Together they make up the heart of a heritage district that includes other properties on Empress Avenue, Primrose Avenue, and Upper Lorne Place listed on the City of Ottawa Heritage Register.

The properties at 85 Primrose Avenue East, 755 Somerset Street West, and 90 Primrose Avenue East/96 Empress Avenue make up a significant cultural landscape in the Dalhousie neighbourhood, comprised of historic buildings and structures, spiritual places, gardens, and natural features linked to the built heritage, including the chimney swifts (a threatened species) currently occupying the west chimney at 90 Primrose Avenue.

The area south of the church and within the limestone walls (we are pleased to see the walls identified as significant heritage attributes!) is also integral to these properties as the former monastic enclosure. The largest portion of this area is still greenspace, and includes many mature trees. This is significant in our community, which has the smallest area of park space and the fewest number of trees per capita in the city. The Dalhousie Community Association advocates for the redevelopment of the enclosure as a public park, while retaining its heritage attributes.

Significantly, the properties at 96 Empress and at 755 Somerset West, through the ownership of Le Conseil des écoles catholiques du Centre-Est and the Somerset West Community Health Centre, respectively, will continue to play vital roles in the life of the Dalhousie community and the city. The designation of 85 Primrose Avenue East, 755 Somerset Street West, and 90 Primrose Avenue East/96 Empress Avenue, will reinforce and extend this vitality.

Sincerely,

Catherine Boucher President

cc. Councillor Ariel Troster

Councillor Rawlson King, Chair of Built Heritage Committee